

cally, fitting a parabola by a least squares method based on the data, and performing coefficient comparison.

[0060] FIG. 3 and FIG. 4 are graphs in which actually measured sets of heterodyne spectra are plotted. In regard to the ordinate, the z-coordinate of the upper wall of the internal space is expressed as “1,” the z-coordinate of the lower wall of the internal space is expressed as “-1,” and the z-coordinate of the middle position between the upper wall and the lower wall of the internal space is expressed as “0.” The abscissa represents the frequency of the heterodyne spectra and the central frequency of a heterodyne spectrum measured in the state where an electric field is not applied to the sample cell container C is expressed as 0 [Hz].

[0061] FIG. 3 is a graph for the case where the sample solution is prepared by mixing a polystyrene latex of 262 nm diameter (concentration: 0.001%) in a 10 mM (millimolar) sodium chloride aqueous solution. The measurement conditions are refractive index of solution: 1.3328; viscosity of solution: 0.8878; and dielectric constant of solution: 78.3.

[0062] FIG. 4 is a graph for the case where the sample solution is prepared by mixing a polystyrene latex of 262 nm diameter (concentration: 0.001%) in a 100 mM (millimolar) sodium chloride aqueous solution. The measurement conditions are refractive index of solution: 1.3328; viscosity of solution: 0.8878; and dielectric constant of solution: 78.3.

[0063] In FIG. 3, the electric field strength is -10.64 [V/cm]. In FIG. 4, the electric field strength is -8.04 [V/cm]. In both FIG. 3 and FIG. 4, the profile of the central frequencies of the heterodyne spectra is substantially a second-order curve (parabola).

[0064] A parabola was fitted to each profile by the least squares method and a comparison was made with the coefficients of formula (2). As a result, in the case of FIG. 3, the plane at $z=0.6017$ and the plane at $z=-0.6936$ were found to be the stationary planes. The migration velocity of the sample particles at the stationary plane was determined and based on the migration velocity, the electrophoretic mobility was determined to be -5.643×10^{-4} [cm^2/Vs] and the ζ potential of the particles was determined to be -72.36 mV.

[0065] In the case of FIG. 4, the plane at $z=0.6078$ and the plane at $z=-0.6867$ were found to be the stationary planes. The migration velocity of the sample particles at the stationary plane was determined and based on the migration velocity, the electrophoretic mobility was determined to be -5.335×10^{-4} [cm^2/Vs] and the ζ potential of the particles was determined to be -68.41 mV.

[0066] The true migration velocity based on the applied electric field of the particles at the stationary plane can thus be determined under the premise of the internal space being a rectangular parallelepiped by measuring the profile of the central frequencies of heterodyne spectra while changing the distance from a wall, fitting a parabola to the profile, and using the formula (2) to specify the stationary plane at which the electroosmotic velocity is zero. Also, the stationary plane can be determined from the electroosmotic flow measurement using the automatic stage moving function of the movable stage 9 to realize accurate measurement of the electrophoretic mobility.

[0067] The structure of the sample cell container C related to the present invention is shown in FIG. 5A to FIG. 5C, FIG. 6, and FIG. 7. The direction of electric field application is indicated by x and the direction perpendicular thereto is indicated by y. A horizontal plane is defined by x-y. The direction of the laser beam is parallel to the y-direction. The z-direction

is a direction perpendicular to x and y. The movable stage 9 is operated so that the sample cell container C moves along the z-direction.

[0068] The sample cell container C is shaped from a transparent resin of rectangular parallelepiped shape. For example, polystyrene may be adopted as the transparent resin. In the interior of the rectangular parallelepiped (referred to as the “sample cell container main body 10”) is formed the sealed space (internal space) 11 that is to be filled with the sample solution. As with the outer shape of the sample cell container main body 10, the shape of the internal space 11 is also a rectangular parallelepiped. A side surface 12 perpendicular to the y-direction of the sample cell container main body 10 shown in FIG. 5A and a side surface 13 perpendicular to the y-direction of the internal space 11 are the surfaces at which the laser beam enters and exits and these surfaces are mirror-finished especially carefully. A pair of embedded electrodes 14, which are for generating an electric field and are embedded in and thereby made integral to the sample cell container main body 10, are disposed in states of being exposed in the internal space 11 at respective ends in the x-direction of the sample cell container main body 10. Each embedded electrode 14 is made of gold-plated copper or brass and as is clear from FIG. 5B, which is a front sectional view, has a U-shaped cross section and is embedded in the sample cell container main body 10.

[0069] To give an example of dimensions, the size of the internal space 11 as viewed in a y-z cross section is 1×5 mm and the distance between electrodes is 24 mm. The calculated spatial volume is 120 to 130 μliters . A conventional electrophoretic mobility measurement cell is large in cell size (for example, 2×10 mm) and requires a certain sample volume because the sample injection is performed with a syringe, etc. However, for samples mainly in bio-related fields and pharmaceutical-related fields (samples of a high degree of hazard or a microquantity or precious sample), etc., the less the sample amount necessary, the more preferable. Therefore by making small the size of the sample cell container C and the distance between electrodes, it becomes possible to realize a minimum volume for a fully disposable cell.

[0070] An injection port 15 and an extraction port 16 for the sample solution are formed at upper surfaces of the respective ends in the x-direction of the sample cell container main body 10, a cylindrical tubular injection portion 17 is erected so as to surround the injection port 15, and a cylindrical tubular extraction portion 18 is erected so as to surround the ejection port 16. An inner side surface 17a of the injection portion 17 and an inner side surface 18a of the extraction portion 18 are respectively formed to tubular shapes and are in communication with the internal space 11. Both the injection portion 17 and the extraction portion 18 are formed of the same transparent resin as the sample cell container main body 10.

[0071] The inner side surface 17a of the injection portion 17 is formed to be inclined so that the cross-sectional area of the tube increases with distance from the sample cell container main body 10. The inner side surface 18a of the extraction portion 18 is also formed to be inclined so that the cross-sectional area of the tube increases with distance from the sample cell container main body 10.

[0072] A cap 21 that covers and seals the internal space is provided to prevent leakage of the sample solution from the injection portion 17 after the internal space 11 has been filled with the sample solution, and a cap 22 that covers and seals the internal space is provided to prevent leakage of the sample